Decling level of teachers' training institutes

†990. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of teachers' training institutes is declining continuously;

(b) if so, the details of efforts being made to raise the level of such institutes; and

(c) whether there is any plan to close down the National Council of Teachers Education (NCTE)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) continuously strives to ensure adherence to its Regulations to maintain the desired quality in teacher training institutions. The Council has framed Regulations to prescribe various parameters and norms for quality teacher education programme. Every teacher education institution has to fulfil the norms and standards prescribed by NCTE. In this direction, the Regulation of 2007 has stipulated that institutions running secondary level teacher training programme like B.Ed. and B.P.Ed., would have to obtain accreditation form the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a 'letter grade B' developed by NAAC before seeking additional intake in these programmes.

NCTE has revised the Policy for inspection of institution for ensuring better quality of teacher training institutions and other matters.

The NCTE has also undertaken a study on demand and supply of teachers and teacher educators for proper and effective regulation of teacher education in the country.

(c) NCTE came into existence as a statutory body in 1995 in pursuance of NCTE Act, 1993 to achieve planned and coordinated development of Teacher Education across the country as also to determine, maintain and coordinate standards in teacher education and curb the proliferation of sub standard institutions.

A Review Committee was constituted by this Department under the Chairmanship of ShriSudeep Banerjee, the then Adviser to MHRD to conduct an indepth study of the functioning of NCTE and its Regional Committees. The Committee has, *inter-alia* recommended that the NCTE Act, 1993 should be repealed. The Government is taking further action on the recommendations of the Committee.

Removal of Election Commissioners

†991. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering or proposes to consider any proposal to amend the procedure for removal of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals; and

(c) the reasons for proposing such an amendment in the said procedure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India, in July, 2004, has forwarded to the Government a set of twenty two proposals on electoral reforms, which *inter-alia* includes a proposal for an amendment provide

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.